

## Message Text

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TAGS: UN, ECOSOC, SHUM

SUBJECT: 62ND ECOSOC--PREPARATORY CONSULTATIONS: (A) THE  
PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL FOR MORE FREQUENT MEETINGS OF THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, AND (B) ARRANGEMENTS FOR WORLD  
CONFERENCE ON RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

REF: (A) USUN 913, (B) USUN 1005, (C) STATE 70942

1. DEPT HAS DECIDED THAT OF THE PROPOSALS FOR STRENGTHENING  
THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY PUT FORWARD BY THE PRESIDENT  
IN HIS UN ADDRESS OF MARCH 17 MOST SUITABLE FOR IMMEDIATE  
FOLLOW-UP IS THE PROPOSAL THAT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSION SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MEET MORE OFTEN. SINCE  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROPOSAL WOULD REQUIRE ECOSOC  
ACTION, DEPT DESIRES TO UTILIZE THE FORTHCOMING 62ND ECOSOC  
SESSION FOR EXPLORATION OF A PROPOSAL FOR AN ADDITIONAL  
ANNUAL SESSION OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. PURPOSE  
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OF EXPLORATIONS WOULD BE TO TEST RECEPTIVITY OF OTHER  
DELEGATIONS TO SUCH A PROPOSAL, AS WELL AS TO SECURE  
SUGGESTIONS ON THE DETAILS WHICH SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN  
AN ECOSOC RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD MOST EFFECTIVELY FIT  
THE SECOND MEETING INTO THE ECOSOC CONFERENCE  
CALENDAR. BECAUSE OF THE NOVEL AND SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED  
NATURE OF SUCH A PROPOSAL, DEPT DESIRES TO

ALLOW FULLY ADEQUATE TIME FOR INFORMAL STUDY AND CONSULTATIONS BEFORE FORMULATING A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL FOR ECOSOC ACTION. OUR PRESENT THINKING IS TO DETERMINE TIMING ON SUBMISSION OF A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL IN THE LIGHT OF THE REACTIONS WHICH WILL BE RECEIVED DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. SINCE THE CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES WILL BE DRAWN UP AT THE 63RD ECOSOC SESSION, DEPT IS TENTATIVELY INCLINED TO HOLD OFF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS UNTIL THAT SESSION.

2. DEPT THEREFORE REQUESTS USUN TO CONVENE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY A MEETING OF THE WEO MEMBERS OF ECOSOC. PURPOSE OF MEETING WOULD BE TO EXPLAIN OUR INTEREST IN PURSUING THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL FOR MORE FREQUENT MEETINGS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND TO SOLICIT THEIR VIEWS ON POSSIBLE PROPOSAL CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS: (A) PROVIDE FOR A SECOND SESSION EACH YEAR OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, (B) THE SESSION TO BE HELD IN LATE AUGUST-EARLY SEPTEMBER AT UN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK, PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, (C) THE FIRST HRC SESSION TO BE HELD IF POSSIBLE A WEEK OR TWO LATER THAN NOW SCHEDULED, I.E., FROM MID-FEBRUARY TO MID-MARCH, (D) BOTH SESSIONS TO BE OF FOUR WEEKS DURATION, (E) THE FIRST SESSION TO REPORT AS IS NOW THE CASE TO THE SPRING SESSION OF ECOSOC, (F) THE SECOND SESSION WOULD REPORT TO A RESUMED SESSION OF ECOSOC SO THAT THE REPORT COULD BE FORWARDED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS REGULAR SESSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SAME YEAR.

3. IN EXPLAINING THE FOREGOING USUN SHOULD NOTE THAT WE CONSIDER ANOTHER SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO BE A CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN ANY PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY. AS IT NOW STANDS THE ONE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REGULARLY FAILS TO GO THROUGH ITS FULL AGENDA WITH THE RESULT THAT MANY PRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES ARE LEFT UNTOUCHED. THE REPEATEDLY TOO LONG AGENDAS LEAD TO JOCKEYING OF ITEMS AND FILIBUSTERING, PRACTICES WHICH HOPEFULLY COULD BE ENDED BY ADDING A SECOND SESSION. IN ADDITION, A SINGLE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION LEAVES MUCH TOO LONG A GAP DURING WHICH IMPORTANT HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS THAT MAY OCCUR AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE SINGLE SESSION ARE LEFT WITHOUT APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY ATTENTION BY THE UN SPECIALIZED HUMAN RIGHTS ORGAN. IMPLICIT IN OUR PROPOSAL WOULD BE THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ROUTINE ITEMS CONSIDERED AT THE FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE AGENDA OF THE SECOND SESSION.  
THIS FACTOR MAY SUGGEST THAT THE SECOND SESSION SHOULD BE

REGARDED AS A RESUMED RATHER THAN A SEPARATE SESSION.  
IT SHOULD FURTHER BE UNDERSTOOD THAT AT THE SECOND SESSION  
FULL ALLOWANCE MUST BE MADE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF ANY  
SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WHICH MAY ARISE IN THE  
INTERIM BETWEEN SESSIONS. THIS WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE  
ITEM WHICH NOW REGULARLY APPEARS ON THE AGENDA OF EACH  
ANNUAL SESSION DEALING WITH VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS SHOULD BE A RECURRING ITEM ON  
THE AGENDAS OF BOTH YEARLY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
SESSIONS.

4. IN PRESENTING THE FOREGOING IDEAS USUN SHOULD STRESS  
THAT THEY ARE EXPLORATORY IN NATURE, THAT THEY ARE STILL  
IN ROUGH OUTLINE AND WILL NEED MORE DETAIL AND REFINE-  
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MENT, THAT WE SEEK THE BENEFIT OF THE ADVICE OF OUR WEO  
COLLEAGUES ON ECOSOC IN THE HOPE THAT WE WILL EVENTUALLY  
BE ABLE TO HAVE UNANIMOUS GROUP SUPPORT FOR AN APPROPRIATE  
PROPOSAL FOR THE HOLDING OF A SECOND ANNUAL SESSION OF  
THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

5. ANOTHER 62ND ECOSOC ITEM WHICH DEPT IS ANXIOUS TO  
HAVE DISCUSSED IN THIS SAME GROUP OF WEO STATES IS THAT  
RELATING TO THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND  
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. WHILE DEPT WILL BE GIVING CAREFUL  
CONSIDERATION TO USUN'S VIEWS WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE  
U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE DECADE,  
AS TRANSMITTED REF. (B), DEPT AT THIS STAGE WOULD BE  
ESPECIALLY INTERESTED TO KNOW HOW THE WEO STATES INTEND  
TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEMS PRESENTED BY THE REPORT OF THE  
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE, AS  
SUMMARIZED IN REF. (A). IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD APPRECI-  
ATE KNOWING HOW THE PROBLEMS RAISED BY THE PROPOSED AGENDA,  
AS DESCRIBED IN PARA. 3 REF (A), WILL BE HANDLED. ALSO  
REQUEST WEO VIEWS ON HOW THEY PLAN TO HANDLE PROBLEMS  
RAISED BY DOCUMENTATION, DISCUSSED PARA 5, REF (A).

6. FINALLY, SESSION SHOULD BE UTILIZED TO EXCHANGE VIEWS  
ON PROSPECTS FOR DEFENDING AND, IF POSSIBLE, STRENGTHENING  
1503 PROCEDURES, UTILIZING, AS APPROPRIATE, IDEAS IN  
REF (C) TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION.

7. DEPT BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT THAT THIS EXCHANGE TAKE  
PLACE THIS WEEK, PREFERABLY THURSDAY, SO THAT THERE IS  
TIME TO GET REACTIONS FROM CAPITALS BEFORE ECOSOC SESSION  
BEGINS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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